

Lesson 53: John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus

[Mark 1:1-8](#)

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/MGqTlaYB5fw>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/2U-4zTWUzrU>

Worship Theme: We prepare our hearts for Jesus.

Memory Verse: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. When the Spirit of the Lord <https://youtu.be/RODHIMCRzw4>
2. God Will Make the Way <https://youtu.be/pKmid-FNhhw>
3. One One Way <https://youtu.be/UB2IpeVHaOM>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: "Prepare the Way"

Materials Needed: Print the message (Mark 1:2-3) for each group (see below)



1. Divide the children into two groups.
2. Give the message for each group, and let them think of the best way to share the message. Maybe they can read it all together in unison. Or they can act it out.

Introduction:

Today, we will learn about a man whom God has chosen to tell people about Jesus who was coming. What kind of clothes do you think this man should wear as he represents God? (Let the children answer: nice clothes.) What kind of food do you think he should eat as the person to tell others about Jesus? (Let the children answer: good and tasty food.) What do you think would be a good name for a man who will prepare the way for Jesus? (Let the children answer.) Let's find out what the bible says about his important man!

Bible Story:

Before Jesus was born, God sent a messenger to tell the people about the Messiah who will be coming soon. God wanted to prepare the hearts of the people to believe in Jesus. The person who prepared the way for Jesus was John. We call him John the Baptist because he baptized people with water to help them repent and turn away from sins. He was not afraid to tell people that they were being sinful and making wrong choices.

John the Baptist was a cousin of Jesus. The bible says that "John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey" (Mark 1:6). John the Baptist didn't care to live a rich life because he knew that real treasure was knowing God. And this was John's message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (Mark 1:7-8).

People were excited to meet the Messiah whom John said was more powerful than him. They asked God to forgive their sins and to prepare their hearts before the Messiah came.

How are you preparing your heart to welcome Jesus who came to save us? Maybe we should think about the wrong choices that we have been making in our lives and try our best to live after the teachings of Jesus!

Questions to discuss:

1. Who was the messenger whom God sent to prepare the way for Jesus? (John the Baptist)
2. How were John the Baptist and Jesus related? (They were cousins)
3. How did people prepare their hearts to welcome Jesus? (They repented and got baptized)
4. How should you prepare your hearts to welcome Jesus? (Let the children answer)

Game: Make Straight Path

Material needed: Print 10 hand and 10 foot (see below to print)



1. Tape the hands and feet on the ground in various orders.
2. Divide the children into 2 equal groups.
3. Children have to step on the prints with their feet and touch the prints with their hands.
4. Let the children go through the race according to the picture.
5. Play the game until everyone has a turn.
6. Explain to the children that sometimes preparing our hearts for Jesus may not be easy. But we can do it with the help of Jesus.

Memory Verse:

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

Craft: Draw John the Baptist

Material Needed: Drawing paper (print from below), colored pens/pencils

1. Give each child the drawing paper with the bible verse.
2. Using the bible verse, have each child draw what they think John the Baptist may have looked.

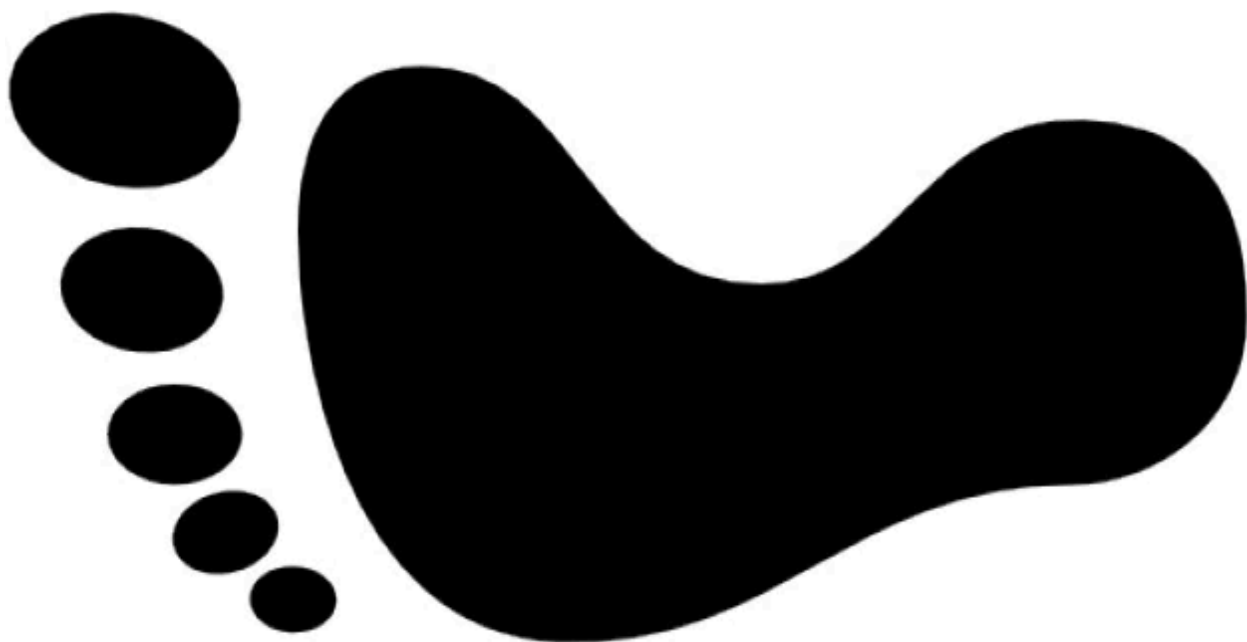


Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

It takes a lot of work to teach children about Jesus. But just as God used John the Baptist to prepare the way of Jesus, God is using you to share the Good News about Jesus to the children. Today, let's thank God for choosing us to work for God's Kingdom and ask God to give us wisdom to help children learn the love of God.



“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—

“a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”
(Mark 1:2-3)

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—

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Draw John the Baptist

“John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6)

Write the Memory Verse: _____
